

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL
COMMITTEE MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

RECORDER: Cheryl Holden

DATE: May 30, 2002

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT POINTS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair; George Chance, DSS; Arleen Downing, M.D., Melody James, CDE; Rick Ingraham, DDS, Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D. Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS; Martha Sanchez; Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.

Introductions & Announcements

Dr. Peterson welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged guests Rhonda Ingel, California's Part C contact, and Larry Ringer, Associate Director, Division of Monitoring and State Improvement Planning, from the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Dr. Peterson introduced and welcomed Tony Anderson from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities who will serve as a Community Representative on the Family Support Services Committee (FSSC). The audience provided self-introductions.

Dr. Peterson commended Department of Developmental Services (DDS) staff and the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) for the ICC Orientation Handbook that was premiered at this meeting. Cheri Schoenborn requested that updates or changes to the ICC Orientation Handbook be submitted to her.

Dr. Peterson thanked the PAC for hosting another successful Newcomers Orientation meeting for parents and others attending the ICC for the first time. Dr. Peterson acknowledged and welcomed the six first-time visitors attending today.

Melody James was presented with an award from the ICC recognizing her past service to the ICC. Ms. James who is now the CDE liaison to the Quality Assurance and Personnel and Program Standards Committee (QAPPSC), was an ICC Member from 1994 to 1997.

Child Care – Family Support Services Committee (FSSC) Interim Meeting Report

George Chance, Co-Chair of the FSSC, reported on the FSSC interim meeting on April 24, 2002. The interim meeting allowed participants the opportunity to operationalize the recommendations of the *Position Statement on Child Care* and complete the work for today's action item. The FSSC recommends that DDS and the ICC participate in the planning and support a symposium on child care to be convened for the purposes of sharing knowledge that will improve access and support for children with disabilities in quality child care. Mr. Chance reviewed the recommendations of the *Position Statement on Child Care* and explained that these were used as the guiding principles behind the symposium planning committee's work. Mr. Chance invited ICC representatives who are participating in the symposium planning committee to join him at the table to share the work completed to date.

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Mary Smithberger, Consultant for the CDE Child Development Division (CDD), discussed a review of documents and reports on child care issues compiled by CDD staff. The documents reviewed included:

- *Position Statement on Child Care (1999)*, by the Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Intervention;
- *Investments to Create Positive Outcomes for Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs (2002)*, by The California Institute on Human Services, Sonoma State University and funded by the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC);
- *Barriers to Inclusive Child Care Research Study: Findings and Recommendations (2001)*, by the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention and funded by the CCFC;
- *School Readiness Working Group Report (2002)*, by the Committee to develop a Master Plan for Education – Kindergarten through University and funded by CCFC;
- *Access to Child Care for Children with Disabilities and other Special Needs (Draft)*, by CDD.

The child care reports were similar in that each was developed with a statewide focus to assist providers to serve children with disabilities in inclusive environments. The reports were analyzed to determine where recommendations were aligned or overlapping. The results of the analysis were compiled into a matrix that compares data collection, consistent policies/funding, interagency collaboration, capacity building, successful models, training, family participation, and transition. The matrix is titled *California Recommendation Related to Inclusion of Children with Disabilities and Other Special Needs in Child Care*. The matrix is currently in draft form pending review from the partners whose works are included in the comparison matrix. CDD anticipates the matrix will be disseminated in the near future. CDD will continue its work on the analysis of the documents and provide periodic progress reports.

Nina LaVine, from Los Angeles County Unified School District, discussed efforts to continue to develop community partnerships by providing support to families and providers. Ms. LaVine emphasized the importance of collaboration efforts with local child care planning councils (LPCs).

Kate Warren, Executive Director of Family Resource Network, discussed the symposium planning committee's desire to promote inclusive child care by ensuring that the recommendations and findings of the child care reports are "put into action" to make a difference for children and families. Ms. Warren expressed the importance of recognizing the perspectives of child care providers in the transfer of knowledge about this complicated system. She encouraged the ICC to be a partner in promoting inclusive child care and community-based early education.

Patty Moore, Executive Director of ARC Family First, discussed the critical role of parents in raising the level of quality child care in inclusive environments. She expressed that this discussion is not limited to children with special needs and their families, but provides an opportunity to improve the quality of care for all children in partnership with their community. Ms. Moore reported on the results of the FRCN-CA survey of their members examining awareness of their local child care resource and referral agencies and the extent of their participation on local child care planning councils. Of the 17 participants that responded:

- 17 work collaboratively with their child care resource and referral agencies;
- 14 receive direct referrals;

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- 11 reported the resource and referral agency has expertise regarding children with special needs;
- 10 participate as representatives on the local planning council (LPC);
- 9 participate as representatives on their local Children and Families Commission.

Kay Ryan, Executive Director of Child Development Policy Advisory Committee (CDAPC) reported the similar survey results of a small sample of LPCs. Nine responders noted that they have parent representatives on their LPC. When asked what type of information would be most helpful, 33% of responders suggested a discussion of best practice models and hearing from others about “what works” presented at a conference. Ms. Ryan discussed the opportunity to have people benefit from one another in a “Transfer of Knowledge” symposium and presented a letter of support in developing such a symposium from the CDAPC. This letter is included in the correspondence section of the packet.

ICC members asked the symposium planning committee representatives questions regarding fiscal impact, work plans, timelines, staffing, logistics and generating sponsorships and revenue. Mr. Chance stated these issues would be further explored in the FSSC meeting and further symposium planning committee meetings and the he would report results at the next COTW meeting.

Dr. Peter Michael Miller presented a proposal to consider viewing children birth to three years of age as requiring early childhood education that integrates developmental and social/emotional support. Dr. Miller suggested consideration be given to the proposal of enveloping “child care” under the public education system. Dr. Miller stated that 70-80% of children are in child care and the other 20% receive early childhood education at home. He stated that currently state and federal standards of quality are inadequate and the children most affected by quality issues are those who are very young or economically disadvantaged.

Neurons to Neighborhoods reported 50-80% of child care is of inadequate or dangerous quality when the background and education of staff and facilities were examined. Dr. Miller has proposed a resolution to the Chapter Forum of the American Academy of Pediatrics to place child care under public education.

Mary Smithberger provided information about Senate Bill 1703 which appropriates funding to CDE on a one-time basis for activities related to child care and development services, including the following:

- 1) \$26.4 million for the expansion of state-subsidized childcare centers through the Child Care Facilities Revolving Fund.
- 2) Grants to state-subsidized child care centers for:
 - a) Repairs and modifications to comply with health, safety, and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and to increase inclusion of children with disabilities;
 - b) Equipment and instructional materials that are aligned with either the state's academic content standards for kindergarten and grades 1-12 or the state's learning and development guidelines for preschool age children; and,

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- c) Ensuring playground equipment complies with regulatory requirements.
- 3) \$12.6 million for local childcare planning councils or resource and referral agencies to increase the capacity of non state-subsidized providers to serve children with disabilities. Limits the allocation for this purpose to 30% of the total amount and requires approval by Department of Finance (DOF).

Monitoring Activities

Ken Freedlander, Chief, DDS Early Start Local Support Section, reported that there are currently four monitoring reports in draft. A new component of monitoring includes reviewing ethnic distribution to see the degree to which children served match the ethnic representation of the community.

2001 Early Start Family Satisfaction Survey

In the fall of 2000, a study was commissioned by DDS to conduct a statewide family satisfaction survey. The survey was designed by XenologiX, Inc. to measure family satisfaction regarding Early Start services provided by California's 21 regional Centers. Additionally, the survey sought information about early intervention services provided, IFSP processes, and family perceptions about quality services and supports. Mr. Freedlander presented the summary findings of the survey (see attached). The entire *2001 Early Start Program: Family Satisfaction Survey*, as well as detailed results, may be accessed at http://www.dds.ca.gov/EarlyStart/main/ES_FamSurvey.cfm

Future Agenda

It was agreed that we would have a follow up presentation by XenologiX, Inc. regarding the findings and resulting implications of the *2001 Early Start Program: Family Satisfaction Survey*. It was also agreed that the COTW would continue to discuss child care issues and have a report from the ICC representatives participating on the symposium planning committee.

Agenda Review

Committee chairs reviewed the May 31st agendas. Each of the committees were asked to review the *Family Satisfaction Survey* to determine how the individual committees and the ICC can assist DDS with continuous quality improvement. OSEP representatives announced that they would be visiting each committee.

Other Business

Rhonda Ingel discussed plans for the interactive discussion OSEP will be holding from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Ms. Ingel provided information about her background and experience with children with special needs and their families. Ms. Ingel commended DDS staff for their commitment to continuous quality improvement and the refinement of California's monitoring tool over the last four years. She stated that she and her colleagues had reviewed volumes of material submitted by DDS and it provided sufficient documentation to demonstrate California had corrected all deficiencies from the prior review.

Ms. Ingel introduced her colleague, Larry Ringer, and described OSEP's philosophy of "focused results monitoring". He stated OSEP will continue to work collaboratively with California in order to provide monitoring for continuous improvement while utilizing resources effectively. OSEP will review the following "clusters":

- General supervision

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- Child find and public awareness
- Family centeredness
- Early intervention services provided in natural environments
- Transition

Ms. Ingel encouraged stakeholders to attend the interactive discussion to provide information on these cluster areas, comments on DDS' preliminary plans for continuous improvement activities, and provide additional feedback regarding California Early Start.

Cheri Schoenborn distributed a document providing contact information and a description of services provided by the twelve SB 511 Family Empowerment Centers. This information is attached.

Adjournment

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.